THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry in the Year 2007 has put up a proposal to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India by enactment of a Legislation for ensuring orderly growth of broadcasting services. The Draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007, which is available on this Ministryus website www.mib.nic.in *interalia* provides terms of reference, objectives and composition of the proposed Authority. However, concerns have been expressed by various sections in the media with respect to the need, scope, functional and fmancial autonomy and independent functioning of the proposed Regulator.

Ministry has initiated *vide* ranging consultations with stakeholders for arriving at a consensus on this issue. The Ministry has already held consultations with Indian Broadcasting Foundation, Multi System Operator (MSO) Alliance, News Broadcasters Association (NBA), Broadcast Editors Association (BEA) and the Cable Operators Federation of India (COFI). A task force of Ministryus officials and representatives of the Broadcasters is envisaged to hold further interactions with diverse stakeholders to understand their perspective and submit a roadmap for the setting up of an independent Broadcast Authority.

Non-utilization of DD Bhawan at MANDI HOUSE

355. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan News runs its channel from the Central Production Centre (CPC) headquarters at Asian Games Village and DD Bhawan set-up with Rs. 20 crores at Mandi House is not being utilized;

(b) whether it is a fact that DD Bhawan set-up at Mandi House is equipped with hi-tech equipments with production and transmission facilities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the news automation system installed there has expired and Doordarshan has to make an additional expenditure of Rs. 174 lakhs towards annual maintenance contract; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) Doordarshan News is at present running its channel from Central Production (CPC) Headquarters at Asian Games Village and necessary action is being taken for shifting News to DD Bhawan, Mandi House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan has informed that the warranty of News Automation System installed at DD Bhawan, Mandi House expired in December, 2008. No annual maintenance contract has, subsequently, been awarded and there has been no expenditure on this account. However, AMC is under process.